

Appln. No. 10/763,734
Amendment dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed February 10, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Original) A method of creating a virtual disk storage construct using disk storage consolidated from at least two grid computers of a computing grid, comprising:

locating an unused portion of a total disk storage space on disk drives of at least two grid computers of the computing grid; and

presenting a portion of the total disk storage space of each of the at least two grid computers as a single virtual storage drive on at least one computer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including allocating a portion of the total disk storage space on each of the at least two grid computers to be made available as part of the virtual storage drive.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 additionally including reserving a portion of the total disk storage space on each of the at least two grid computers for local use.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including determining the total disk storage space on each of the at least two grid computers and allocating the total disk storage space between a portion made available for use as part of the virtual storage drive and a portion reserved for local use on the grid computer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including maintaining a table of grid computers contributing storage space to the virtual storage drive and corresponding amounts of storage space made available by each contributing grid computers.

Appln. No. 10/763,734
Amendment dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed February 10, 2006

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including monitoring at least one of the grid computers for activity indicating that additional disk storage space has been added to the at least one grid computer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 additionally including allocating disk storage space on the at least one grid computer after detecting activity indicating that additional storage space has been added to the at least one grid computer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including monitoring at least one of the grid computers for activity indicating that a minimum amount of free disk storage space has been violated.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 additionally including allocating disk storage space on the at least one grid computer after detecting activity indicating that the minimum amount of free disk storage space has been violated to restore at least the minimum amount of free disk storage space.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including providing a safe area on disk storage space of the virtual storage drive, the safe area being kept free of data.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally including loading an agent application on each of the grid computers for managing disk storage space on the grid computer made available to the virtual storage drive.

Appln. No. 10/763,734
Amendment dated June 12, 2006
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12. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising copying data from a reserved portion of the disk storage space of at least one of the grid computers to an available portion of at least two other grid computers of the computing grid that have been made available to the virtual storage drive to thereby backup the copied data from the reserved portion of the at least one grid computer.

13. (Original) A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions implementing the following method of creating a virtual disk storage construct using disk storage consolidated from at least two grid computers of a computing grid:

locating an unused portion of a total disk storage space on disk drives of at least two grid computers of the computing grid; and

presenting a portion of the total disk storage space of each of the at least two grid computers as a single virtual storage drive on at least one computer.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13 additionally implementing the step of allocating a portion of the total disk storage space on each of the at least two grid computers to be made available as part of the virtual storage drive.

15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14 additionally implementing the step of reserving a portion of the total disk storage space on each of the at least two grid computers for local use.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13 additionally implementing the step of monitoring at least one of the grid computers for activity indicating that additional disk storage space has been added to the at least one grid computer.

Appln. No. 10/763,734
Amendment dated June 12, 2006
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17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13 additionally implementing the step of monitoring at least one of the grid computers for activity indicating that a minimum amount of free disk storage space has been violated.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13 additionally implementing the step of providing a safe area on disk storage space of the virtual storage drive, the safe area being kept free of data.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15 additionally implementing the step of copying data from a reserved portion of the disk storage space of at least one of the grid computers to an available portion of at least two other grid computers of the computing grid that have been made available to the virtual storage drive to thereby backup the copied data from the reserved portion of the at least one grid computer.

20. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of reserving a portion of the total disk storage space includes restricting the reserved portion from inclusion in the single virtual storage presented.